

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01  
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15  
ICA-11 TRSE-00 MCT-01 COME-00 AID-05 ACDA-12 IO-13  
/108 W

-----002904 271037Z /10

R 261135Z MAY 78  
FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 474  
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI  
AMCONSUL MADRAS

C O N F I D E N T I A L COLOMBO 2467

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINT, CE

SUBJ: GSL MEASURES DIRECTED AT LIBERATION TIGER MOVEMENT

REF: COLOMBO 2422

1. IN ITS CONTINUING EFFORTS AGAINST THE TAMIL LIBERATION TIGER MOVEMENT, PRESIDENT J.R. JAYAWARDENE ELEVATED DEPUTY DEFENSE MINISTER, T.B. WERAPITIYA TO THE RANK OF MINISTER ON MAY 23. LOCAL PRESS REPORTS STATE THIS NEW POSITION WILL PERMIT HIM AS A MINISTER "TO EXERCISE POWERS OF BANNING THE LIBERATION TIGER MOVEMENT AND OTHER SIMILAR ORGANIZATIONS UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE NEW LAW." IN ADDITION, THE ANNOUNCED APPOINTMENT OF THE DEPUTY INSPECTOR GENERAL FOR THE NORTHERN RANGE, ANA SENEVIRATNE, TO REPLACE INSPECTOR GENERAL STANLEY SENANAYAKE ON JUNE 1, 1978, WHILE LONG EXPECTED, IS BEING INTERPRETED AS FURTHER EVIDENCE OF INCREASED GSL CONCERN OVER THE INTERNAL SECURITY SITUATION.

2. LOCAL PRESS OF MAY 26 CONTINUES TO REPORT "FLUSHING OUT  
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OPERATIONS" BEING CONDUCTED IN THE TAMIL AREAS IN THE NORTHERN AND EASTERN PROVINCES. VISITORS RETURNING FROM JAFFNA REPORT A NUMBER OF MILITARY ROAD CHECKS. HOWEVER, THE SITUATION IN THE JAFFNA AREA APPEARS TO REMAIN CALM.

3. EMBASSY COMMENT  
THE CONTINUED PRESENCE OF A LARGE NUMBER OF POLICE AND MILITARY

PERSONNEL IN THE AREA, IS INCREASINGLY RESENTED BY THE TAMIL RESIDENTS. IT IS DIFFICULT TO MEASURE THE DEGREE OF SYMPATHY AND SUPPORT BEING ENJOYED BY THE LIBERATION TIGERS IN THE TAMIL AREAS. THEY HAVE UNDOUBTEDLY GAINED ADHERENTS FROM THOSE ELEMENTS WITHIN THE TAMIL COMMUNITY WHO ARE FRUSTRATED BY BY WHAT THEY VIEW AS YET ANOTHER SRI LANKA GOVERNMENT'S FAILURE TO MEET THEIR ASPIRATIONS. ELEMENTS OF THE TAMIL COMMUNITY HAVE DENOUNCED THE RECENT ACTIONS BY THE TIGER AS SETTING BACK TAMIL EFFORTS TO GAIN SOME REGIONAL AUTONOMY FOR THE TAMIL AREAS. OTHER TAMILS REMAIN NEUTRAL FEARING REPRISALS BY EITHER THE LIBERATION TIGERS OR THE GOVERNMENT.

4. WE ANTICIPATE THE MOST CRITICAL VOICES TO BE HEARD AGAINST THE UNP GOVERNMENT'S ACTION ON THIS ISSUE WILL BE FROM MEMBERS OF THE LARGE EXPATRIATE TAMIL COMMUNITIES ABROAD. MANY OF THEM DEPARTED THE ISLAND EARLIER AFTER CONCLUDING THAT THEIR DEMANDS FOR A EQUAL TREATMENT IN SRI LANKA WOULD NOT BE MET UNDER PREVIOUS SRI LANKAN GOVERNMENTS. THEIR EMOTIONAL REACTION TO CURRENT PROBLEMS HERE IS VIEWED BY SOME AS COMPARABLE TO THE SUPPORT FROM IRISH ABOARD FOR THE IRA'S FORAYS. LEVIN

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** GOVERNMENT REFORM, COUNTERINSURGENCY, LIBERATION FRONTS  
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**Draft Date:** 26 may 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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**Executive Order:** GS  
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**TAGS:** PINT, CE, LIBERATION TIGER MOVEMENT  
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**Review Markings:**  
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